

**FOURTH UNECE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

GENEVA, 1-2 December 2009

Agenda item 10. Cross-cutting issues, interlinkages and implementation of CSD-17 decisions

Intervention by the World Society for the Protection of Animals¹

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Animals, in particular livestock are directly linked to many of the cross-cutting issues. Specifically, poverty reduction, protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, gender equality, and means of implementation.

As we already mentioned yesterday, the FAO estimates that one billion of the world's poorest people depend on animals for food and livelihoods. When the welfare of the animals is compromised, for example: when they are sick or injured, has no access to veterinary care, when they die in disasters, when they are starving, the wellbeing of the caregivers and the community is then also compromised.

Industrial livestock production is heavily dependent on natural resources such as water and oil.

Women are often the caregivers of small livestock and use working animals to assist in their daily work. Small livestock can be the only method of financial security for women. When these animals become sick or die women and their families lose their financial safety net.

There are many positive examples of caring for animals as a means to safeguard livelihoods, recover from disasters and wars, through the provision of veterinary care, food, clean water, and housing systems that allow for animals to be animals and not just a commodity. We look forward to sharing these examples with you in the lead up to CSD18.

We have already discussed in previous interventions the link between animals and the themes of CSD18 and I will not elaborate on this now.

Because animals are found in all cultures and communities, and are a vital part of a billion of the world's poor specifically as a social safety net, it would be beneficial to consider animals in our discussions of the cross-cutting issues.

Thank you.

Jennifer Lanier, speaking on behalf of WSPA.

¹ The text is presented as received from the author.